LTH
INOV 1943
2

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.

for the year ending 31st.December 1942.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE.	OFFICER.	QUALIFICATIONS.
Medical Officer of Health.	William Cunningham.	M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy M.O.H.	Theodore Grai[illegible].	M.B., Ch.B.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	William H.Lo[illegible].	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Training in Legal Work).	Frederick Spencer.	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.
Temporary Sanitary Inspector.	William G. Sm[illegible].	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1942 in accordance with Circulars issued by the Ministry of Health. The Minister has considered it is desirable that the reports should be abridged during the period of the War, and while nothing of importance should be omitted, the matters should be dealt with as briefly as possible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. There is a slight increase in the numbers of Scarlet Fever, 34 as against 23 in 1941. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria. Again there was a rise in the number of cases of Diphtheria, 101 as against 77. There were four deaths from Diphtheria, ages being, 4, 5, 7 and 9½ years. Three of the children who died had not been immunised, one boy, age 7 years, had been immunised but diphtheria was only a contributary cause of death, other complications being present.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

We are still active in our propaganda for the immunisation of children against diphtheria. Pamphlets have been distributed to all school children to take home to their parents, posters have been published in suitable places and articles have been dictated to representatives of the press and the Diphtheria film has been widely advertised. The Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector take every opportunity of discussing the benefits of immunisation with the parents of affected children. Headmasters and school teachers co-operated with Health Visitors in every possible way. It is my experience that personal talks by your Sanitary Inspectors and by school masters and school teachers are the most valuable form of propaganda.

At the time of writing this report the percentage of school children already protected is in the region of 86%.

Scabies Order 1941.
We have carried out all the directions contained in the Scabies Order 1941 and are working in close co-operation with headmasters and health visitors. At the time of writing this report we are establishing a scabies clinic in West Moor. On two occasions the film produced by the Ministry of Information entitled "Scabies" was shown to large and appreciative audiences.

BIRTH RATES & DEATH RATES. There is no outstanding difference in the Birth Rate and Death Rate as compared with the year 1941, both showing a slight decrease. The population figure calculated mid-year 1942 shows an increase of 40 compared with 1941.

MILK.
During the whole of the year the milk supply, with regard to its cleanliness, and its bacteriological content, has maintained a fairly good standard. The milk which has been produced in our own area has been very satisfactory. This is clear proof that transport difficulties from areas outside the district is a telling factor in the cause of sour and dirty milk. I have attended many conferences with the Authorities concerned with the supervision of milk in its production and distribution and am assured that the Government policy with regard to milk will show a marked improvement this year.

TUBERCULOSIS IN MILK.
Forty of the above samples were submitted for biological test, four of which were certified as having B. Tuberculosis present. Upon receiving information from this office the County Medical Officer took the necessary action and had the affected cows slaughtered.

WAR CONDITIONS.
No difficult problems in Public Health arose as a result of War conditions during 1942. Close co-operation is maintained by the Military Medical Service and this Department.

NUTRITION.
There was no evidence of mal-nutrition in this area during the year.

CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES.

This department has had to work at the fullest possible pressure to cope with the extra work imposed by civil defence needs.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their sympathetic consideration at all times and Mr. Lockey, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the staff for their unfailing loyalty and energetic work. Despite extra tasks imposed by the War the routine work of the Department has not been allowed to suffer.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. Cunningham.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)..... 6,[illegible]
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1943.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to
Rate book..... 6,573
Rateable Value..... £113,[illegible]
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... £ 446

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Chief Industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton and Forest Hall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births - Legitimate.....	158	177	31[illegible]
Illegitimate.....	7	6	13
Total live births..	165	16[illegible]	328
Still Births - Legitimate.....	6	6	12
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Total still births..	6	6	12

Birth Rate per 1,000 population..... 1[illegible]
Still Births per 1,000 Live & Still Births..... [illegible]

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths.....	129	10[illegible]	[illegible]

Death Rate.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 10.[illegible]

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births.)
Puerperal Sepsis.....	nil	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes.....	nil	0.00
Total	nil	0.00

Deaths of Infants.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total	7	10	17
Legitimate...	7	9	16
Illegitimate.	-	1	1

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births..... 1.[illegible]
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births..... [illegible]
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births..... 76.[illegible]
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... [illegible]
" " Measles (all ages)..... -
" " Whooping Cough (All Ages)..... -
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 2

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year.
England & Wales. 1942.	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.00	0.00	5.2	49
Longbenton 1942.	15.25	0.55	10.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.046	0.00	0.00	6.09	51.8
" 1941.	15.65	0.51	11.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.046	0.09	0.00	0.00	14.45	60.6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LONGHEATON AREA 1942.

	CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE.
	All Causes	129	104
1.	Typhoid & Para. Typhoid	-	-
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	3	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
9.	Influenza	1	-
10.	Measles	-	-
11.	Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis	-	-
12.	Acute Inf. encephalitis	1	1
13.	Cancer of B. Cav. & Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F)	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	5
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	19	5
17.	Diabetes	-	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	11	18
19.	Heart Disease	30	22
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	3	2
21.	Bronchitis	11	7
22.	Pneumonia	5	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases	3	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1
26.	Appendicitis	1	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	4	4
28.	Nephritis	2	2
29.	Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	2	1
32.	Congenital. birth inj. infant dis	1	2
33.	Suicide	-	-
34.	Road Traffic Accident	1	-
35.	Other violent causes	9	1
36.	All other causes	11	15

There is no evidence of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that conditions of occupation, environment, or unemployment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.

L. (i) Public Health Officials: see page 1.

(ii) a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.

b. Ambulance Services. - This service is now under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department. Two ambulances are available for use of residents, no charge being made for cases to be transported to hospitals or medical institutions in Newcastle or North Shields or to the emergency maternity hospitals at Dilston, Stagshaw or Stannington.

c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.

d. The only treatment centre controlled by this Authority is the Sun-Ray Clinic, which continues to do good work.

e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Scaffold Hill, administered by the Hexham Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a Constituent Member.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service.
This service is controlled by the County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Water Supply.

(i) No alteration has been made in the source of water supply.

(ii) Drainage & Sewage. Conditions remain the same.

2. Rivers and Streams.

(i) Informal action was taken with regard to the silted and choked condition of a water course which was causing flooding of the adjacent land.

3. Closet Accommodation.

(i) Same as last year.

(ii) Public Cleansing - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) Shops and Offices - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(v) Camping Sites - No applications have been made for sites during 1942, and no camping sites exist in

(vi) Smoke abatement - No official action has been necessary.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools - There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

(viii) Eradication of the Bed Bug - No formal action has been necessary. All cases brought to the notice of the department have been dealt with without having to refer to the Council.

4. SCHOOLS.
The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient and suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodical inspections are made to all schools.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. Omitted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk Supply. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
b. Meat and Other Foods. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
c. Adulteration. This service is administered by the County Council.
d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. Milk is the only food of which samples are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Authority. These samples are examined in the County Laboratory, Newburn.
e. Nutrition. No special educative effort was made in the nature of lectures, films etc.
f. Shellfish. - Mollusca - There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

The following table gives the numbers and the ages groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

	NUMBER OF CASES.														
		Ages Group.													
	at all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 & over	Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	101	-	5	-	4	6	28	20	17	13	6	2	-	99	4
Scarlet Fever.	35	-	1	1	-	4	17	6	4	-	-	-	-	30	-
Measles.	112	5	10	11	13	11	47	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puer.Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dysentry.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Whooping Cough.	30	1	3	6	7	6	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococal Meningitis.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia.	16	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	5	3	-	3	1	-	-
	309	6	19	19	30	27	107	35	30	22	6	7	1	153	4

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

There were no cases of Opthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS. No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS 1942.

Age Groups.	CASES NOTIFIED. PULMONARY M.	PULMONARY F.	NON-PULMONARY M.	NON-PULMONARY F.	DEATHS. PULMONARY M.	PULMONARY F.	NON-PULMONARY M.	NON-PULMONARY F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	4	2	1	2	2	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	12	7	4	3	5	5	-	-

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area is generally satisfactory, and no action has been necessary in any case of no lect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER at 31st. December 1942.

	PULMONARY. MALE.	PULMONARY. FEMALE	PULMONARY. TOTAL	NON-PULMONARY. MALE	NON-PULMONARY. FEMALE	NON-PULMONARY. TOTAL	TOTAL PULMONARY & NON-PULMONARY. TOTAL
Cases on Register Jan.1st.1942.	65	59	124	26	19	45	169
New Cases.	12	7	19	4	3	7	26
Cases Trans. in.	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cases Trans. out.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cases Removed	5	5	10	-	-	-	10
On Register 31.12.42.	73	61	134	29	22	51	185

LONGHEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY.

for the year ended 31st.December 1942.

To Dr. Cunningham,

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit my report upon the Sanitary Department for the year 1942.

WORK. The shortage of building materials and building trade labour persisted throughout the year, local labour having to be transferred to other districts to attend to war damage repairs. Owing to this factor we were only able to have absolute essentials carried out and in most cases, after severe pressure upon owners, even in instances where we intended to do work by default it was extremely difficult to obtain contractors to quote for the work. The condition of the houses in some clearance areas, confirmed prior to the outbreak of hostilities, is gradually getting worse and, on every available occasion, tenants from clearance areas are re-housed and the slum clearance houses closed. We still have more than two houses in confirmed clearance areas which are still being used owing to our inability to re-house the tenants.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. Our collections from the mining districts are much heavier than normal. Large quantities of inferior coal and stone, which is sorted out at the time of the delivery of the coal to the miners houses, has to be collected. In some instances when we collect within a day or two of the delivery of the coal to a village, we find that we have to dispose of an extra load of refuse than on normal occasions. Generally speaking however, the present equipment and personnel were able to deal with the refuse. Every effort is made to collect twice per week from the mining parts of the district, other parts are collected once per week.

DISPOSAL. We have been using four points of disposal of refuse throughout the year, three are on controlled tips and the fourth, which is of midden refuse, is tipped upon a farm site to be used as manure by the farmer. Our tips are in excellent condition, two of the former being tipped into quarries, the other is a site where land has been subject to mine subsidence and we are raising the field from five to six feet. It is to be noted that the farmer on this latter site was able to produce a crop of kale on the land within a year of the part being filled in and has followed up in the second year with a crop of potatoes.

TRADE REFUSE. As in former years, the trade refuse has been removed free of charge, otherwise the shopkeepers might destroy material which is needed as salvage.

SALVAGE. Our motor vehicles are each fitted with a trailer so that the collection of salvage takes place with the house refuse. With the exception of the period when the kitchen waste is exceptionally low (new potato season) two special collections are made for kitchen waste from the 150 communal bins which are distributed throughout the area. The whole of the kitchen waste is delivered to the Concentrator Plant, Newcastle, for treatment before being sold to pig-keepers.

I beg to append below statistics relating to the scavenging services for the year ended 31st.March 1943. The figures are based upon the estimated population made in 1942 of 21,500 and 6,573 houses.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY:-

Estimated quantity removed	14,751	Tons.
Approximate average weight per house	2.2	Tons.
Average quantity per house	5.98	Cub.yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	37.6	Cwts.

Total Cost of Collection		£ 4,311
Cost of Disposal		385
Payment to men when sick		147
Part wages of men in H.M.Forces		112
Total Scavenging Costs		5,955
Less payment for scavenging of Army Camps	325	
" profit on Salvage	1,007	1,332
		£4,632

	s.	d.
Cost per house	14-	0.4
Cost per head population	4-	3.6
Cost on rates in the £		10.3

SALVAGE.

Total material sold	£ 1,438
Costs other than with normal scavenging	431
	£ 1,007

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Owing to the inability of obtaining labour for the carrying out of the work of the abatement of nuisances more inspections are necessary in order to have the work carried out. Arrangements have been made with the agent for a large block of property whereby any nuisances from choked drains are attended to by us and accounts rendered for the work. Full records are kept in order to follow up nuisances and contraventions but, as in the preceding year, in order to economise in paper the details of these records are not being produced.

MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1934. The same scheme, as operated last year, for all animals to be slaughtered in Government controlled slaughter houses in Newcastle and allocated to this district was continued during 1943. Regular inspections of the whole process is maintained and it is pleasing to record that the local butcher's pool are working harmoniously with the department. It was noted, over the year, that a considerable number of cottagers pigs were slaughtered, mostly for bacon. In each instance an attempt was made for the animals to be inspected and wherever any evidence of disease was the cottagers were willing for us to dispose of the affected [illegible]

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED.

Beef (Home Killed)	9½ Stones	Bacon	184-lbs.
" (Imported)	1 "	Cheese	91½ "
Mutton (Imported)	13 "	Butter	6 "
Pork	21 "	Lard.	7¼ "
Poultry.	36 "	Onions	21 Stones
Fruit.	1 -lb.	Fish Cakes.	6 dozen.
Canned Goods.	476 Tins.	Flour	17½-lbs.

1. MILK & DAIRIES ORDER 1926.

The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk and Dairies Register at the 31st. December 1943.

Number of persons registered as cow-keepers.	20
Number of premises registered as cow-sheds.	25
Number of cows kept on registered premises (approximately)	410
Number of cow-keepers retailing milk.	18
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area.	19
Number of Dairymen outside the area retailing in the area.	17
Number of premises registered as Dairies.	21
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors.	48

2. MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER. 1936.

The following are particulars of licences granted under the above order:-

Premises licensed for Storage and Sale of T.T. Milk.	1
Premises licensed for Storage and Sale of Pasteurised Milk.	6
Supplementary Licenses to retail T.T. Milk.	1
Supplementary Licenses to retail Pasteurised Milk.	1
Supplementary Licenses to retail Accredited Milk.	-
Accredited Producers.	3

3. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test.

MILK PRODUCED IN THE LOCALITY AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	29	9	38	76.31
B.coli.	18	1	19	94.73

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LOCALITY AREA.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	6	9	15	40.
B.coli.	3	3	6	50

GRADED MILK.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Pasteurised.				
Total Bacterial Count	3	1	4	75
Phosphatase Test.	2	-	2	100

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Total Bacterial Count.	3	1	4	75%
Methylene Blue Test.	36	17	53	67.92
B. Coli.	21	4	25	84.

BIOLOGICAL TEST.

Thirty two samples produced inside the area and eight produced outside were submitted for Biological Test. One of the former and three of the latter were certified as "B. Tuberculosis Present".

Yours faithfully,

W. H. Lockey.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

LIBRARY